Session #51

Why Can't We Be Friends: Students & Social Media

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Shifts in Communication

- No longer a one way street
- Generational
 - Millennials are the heaviest users
 - Baby Boomers are the fastest growing users
- People now spend more time on social networking sites than on e-mail



2009 Social Media Survey

- Surveyed financial aid administrators
 - Facebook, Texting, and YouTube were the most widely used
 - Many were blocked from accessing social media sites at work
 - Used social media more in their personal lives



Facebook

- Facebook has over 500 million users
- If Facebook were a country it would be the 3rd largest
- An average Facebook user spends:
 - 55 minutes a day
 - 6.5 hours a week
 - 1.2 days a month
- More than 30 billion pieces of content shared each month



YouTube & Twitter

YouTube

- Receives over 2 billion viewers each day
- 24 hours of video uploaded every minute
- More than half of YouTube users are under age 20
- To watch all the videos currently on YouTube, a person has to live for around 1,000 years

Twitter

- 80% of Twitter users use Twitter on mobile devices
- Over 50 million tweets in 2010
- Over 100 million current users



What's in it for You?

- Meeting students where they are
- Larger reach with fewer resources
 - Common questions → Shorter lines
- Gives you a competitive advantage
 - If you're not out there, who is?

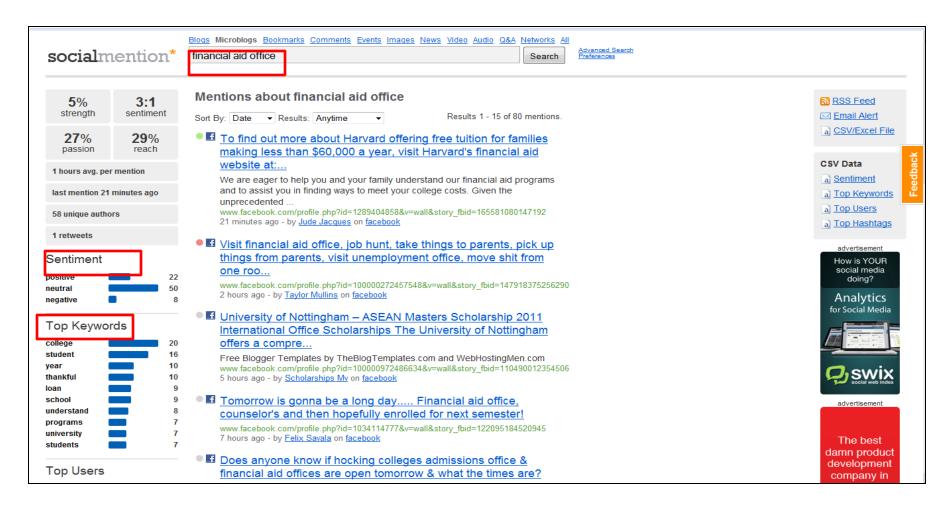


Listen First!

- It is important to know what is being said about you before you dive in
- Keywords:
 - Don't forget misspellings
- Tools:
 - Google Alerts
 - Social Mention
 - Hootsuite

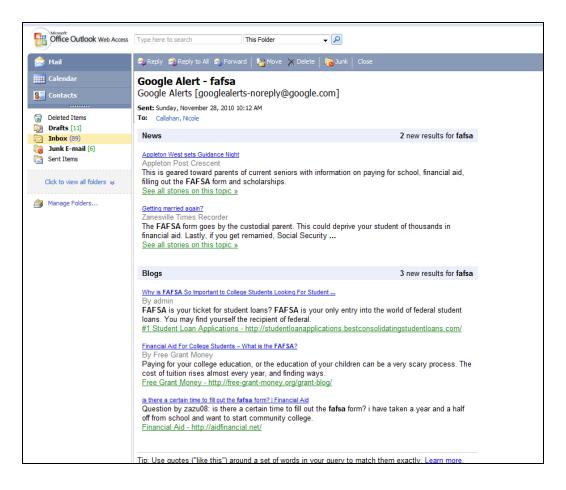


Listening Tools: Social Mention





Listening Tools: Google Alerts





Plan

- What resources do you have available
 - People
 - Content (text, videos)
 - Tools
 - Training
- Have a content strategy
- Take traditional messaging & rewrite for Web 2.0
- Crisis management/handling negative sentiment & mistakes



Create

- Not just a duplication of your website
 - BE INTERACTIVE!
- Create great conversation starters
- Use relevant keywords in "About Us" box
- Info button should include your key social sites
- Include FAQs and Photo Tabs
- Use e-mail to announce your page



Examples from Schools





Examples from Schools





Other ways to use Facebook

Status Updates

- Text, links, photos
- Meet the customer where they are

Facebook Events

- Promote Financial Aid Events/Deadlines
 - Easy to share

Facebook Questions

- Answer & keep track of common questions
 - Check out Formspring as well
- Shorten your lines

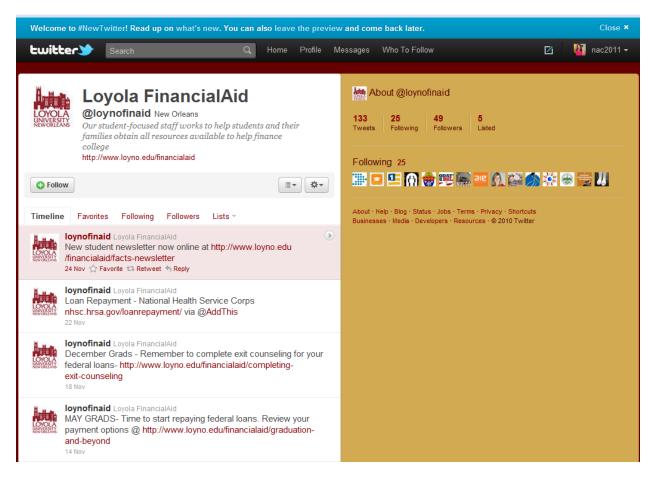


Future of Facebook

- Facebook founder declares e-mail is almost dead...
- Announces a new platform that will integrate all the following into one inbox
 - Cell phone texts
 - Chats
 - E-mail
 - Facebook messages



Examples from Schools





Other ways to use Twitter

Follow Pertinent Feeds

- Students, university departments, FinAid resources

Monitor

- What are your students saying?
 - Some is just noise, but some feedback is constructive

Interact

- Make followers your advocates
 - Gain respect through involvement
 - Don't be a robot

Field Questions



Other Tools

Blog

- Traditional Blogs
 - Blogspot, Wordpress
- Tumblr

Social check-in sites

- Facebook Places
- Foursquare
- Gowalla
- SCVNGR



Promote

- Facebook and Twitter icons on your website
- Cross-promote
- Hosts contests to gain followers
- Interact
 - Use your website to push information
 - Make students, faculty, alums your advocates



Security & Privacy

- Personally Identifiable Information (PII)
- Privacy settings
- Encourage students to use caution
 - Social media is public



Stay in the Know

- Mashable
- Social Media Today
- TechCrunch
- The Next Web
- Social Media Examiner
- Resources
 - Fascinating Social Media Facts 2010
 - 21 Creative Ways to Increase Your Facebook Fanbase



Contact Information

We appreciate your feedback and comments. We can be reached at:

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